

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/918,301

Examiner

Adnan M. Mirza

Applicant(s)

ALLEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/12/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-65.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kory D. Christensen on 12/14/06

Please amend the independent claim 39.

39. (Currently amended). A computer program product comprising a machine-readable storage medium storing [including] program code for causing a machine to perform a method for organizing video streams on a display screen, the method comprising: receiving a plurality of video streams on a display screen, the method comprising: receiving a plurality of video streams on a display screen, the method comprising: receiving a plurality of video streams at a network terminal; simultaneously displaying the video streams in a plurality of respective video windows within a user interface provided by the network terminal, the user interface being presented upon the display screen; ranking within the network terminal at least a portion of the video streams according to a set of ranking criteria, wherein said ranking is to determine the relative locations within the user interface of the respective video windows; and arranging the locations of at least

Art Unit: 2145

a portion of the plurality of video windows within the user interface in order of the ranking of the respective video streams as determined by the ranking criteria.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-65 will be allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art references most closely resembling the applications claimed invention is Arnott (U.S. 2002/0083462) and Liwerant et al (U.S. 2002/0056123).

Arnott disclosed the steps of receiving a plurality of video streams and simultaneously displaying the vide streams within a user interface. However Arnott did not disclose, "arranging the locations of at least a portion of the plurality of video windows within the user interface in order of the ranking of the respective video streams as determined by the ranking criteria" Claims (1,20,39,58,59,60,61).

Liwerant disclosed a process of streaming video over a computer network. However Liwerant did not disclose, "arranging the locations of at least a portion of the plurality of video windows within the user interface in order of the ranking of the respective video streams as determined by the ranking criteria" Claims (1,20,39,58,59,60,61).

In summary, the Examiner submits that there is no motivation to combine the aforementioned references; therefore, claims 1-65 have been deemed allowable over the prior art.

Art Unit: 2145

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (571)-272-3885.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)-272-3933. The fax for this group is (703)-746-7239. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866)-217-9197 (toll-free).



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